

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended and claim 22 is added. Claims 1 and 8 are amended only to correct minor informalities and not in response to a claim rejection. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-7, 12-14 and 18, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 5-7, 12-14 and 18, as well as the remaining pending claims are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 409097235 to Fukushima et al. (Fukushima) in view of U.S. Patent 5,072,309 to Brown. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference of Fukushima is not available as prior art as it was not available as a reference until its publication date of April 8, 1997. The instant application, filed on June 12, 2001, is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application 08/749,964 filed on November 18, 1996, which date is prior to the publication date of Fukushima. Thus, Fukushima the application is not a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. §102, and cannot be used as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As Brown alone does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, the claims distinguish over the combination of applied references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Brown. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Brown discloses all of the features recited in independent claim 19 including a help key "provided by the operator panel 106 for inputting a help command (help menu)" and a storage device (program memory 145) "for storing the help list of the facts". The Office Action further alleges that Brown discloses a read unit controller 150 for reading out the "help information from the host" and a display means panel 106 for "displaying the help list".

Applicants submit that Brown is silent regarding the disclosure of any of a help command, help menu, help list, help information, or displaying the help list. Rather, Brown discloses only that the operator panel 106 contains buttons or switches and a display which enable the user to operate and input information to the facsimile machine (col. 3, lines 1-3).

Additionally, the host system 140 disclosed in Brown does not include a "display unit" that shows a help list based on the help list data read from the data storage device" as recited in claim 19. Rather, in Brown, the user facsimile machine 100 is connected via the telephone switch network 120 to the host system 140 (col. 2, lines 42-44 of Brown). Thus, a user of the facsimile machine 100 is in a location remote from the host system 140. Therefore, it is not necessary for the host system 140 to have a display unit because a user would be at a location remote from the display unit and therefore could not view the display unit. Accordingly, Brown does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims.

Furthermore, Brown does not disclose a list of any type, and only discloses a menu at Figs. 3 and 4 referencing "stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and CD rates". Accordingly, Brown discloses none of the features as alleged in the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

IV. New Claim

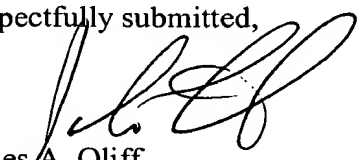
Applicants assert that the subject matter recited in claim 22 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Brown. For example, Brown does not disclose or suggest a peripheral device having at least one function, the peripheral device being capable of communicating with a host device having a data storage device storing help list data regarding how to set and how to use the at least one function of the peripheral device, the peripheral device, comprising an input/output interface connected to the host device; a help key through which a user inputs a command for requesting the help list; a read unit that reads out the help list data stored in the data storage device of the host device via the input/output interface when requested by operating the help key by the user; and a display unit that shows a help list based on the help list data transmitted from the host device via the input/output interface.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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